

PHILIP LEVINE LABORATORIES

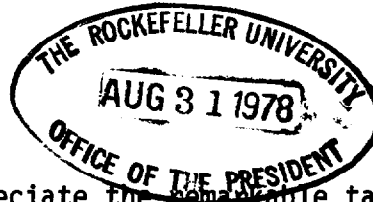


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August 22, 1978

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Professor, Department of Genetics
Stanford University Medical School
Stanford, California 94305



Dear Josh:

I was delighted to learn that you appreciate the remarkable talents of my good friend Ruggiero Ceppellini whom I first met in 1950 at Cambridge. What a stimulating man he is! It was my pleasure to arrange a place for him on the program of the August 14 Aspen Conference on Membranes arranged by Donald King and Ted Puck, Director of the Eleanor Roosevelt Cancer Research Center at Denver. Incidentally this conference was in my honor, thanks to the initiation of Ted Puck.

At the age of 78 I am fortunate to be as creative as at any period in my life and Ted Cooper, Provost at Cornell University and Dean at the Medical College, is responsible for my association with the University and my appointment as Visiting Fellow, Faculty of Medicine at the Medical College.

Ceppellini tells me that he reported to you on my recent findings on adenoca and its relationship to glycosphingolipids and the antibodies in normal human serum.

I am enclosing a brief paper on the specificity of phage in Salmonella published in 1935. When I left Landsteiner in 1932, we finally agreed that I was not to work in blood groups in my new position at the University of Wisconsin Medical School. He challenged me to open up new fields of research and this challenge I accepted. Fortunately I found Burnet in his younger years in error when he stated that antibody and phage specificities do not run parallel.

Enclosed are the following:

- 1) Levine & Stetson - the first paper on transplacental iso-immunization by the human Rh blood factor
- 2) One of the several papers on phage specificity
- 3) A review of a book written by Speiser and Smekal on Landsteiner
- 4) A paper just submitted to PNAS with some important findings dealing with a simple anti-Forssman antibody which is age-related

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5) An earlier paper in Seminars in Oncology

To facilitate your reviewing these papers, I made several appropriate comments on each paper.

Although Burnet proposed the self-nonsel self concept, he was confused by attempting to relate Sir Peter Medawar's work on tolerance to his own findings as described in his Nobel Lecture as given in Science 1961. To me, it has long been obvious that Burnet is a confused man. Sir Peter whom I now know quite well told me recently that he has written more on the self-nonsel self concept than Burnet. We all know the latter's numerous books and reviews dealing with much speculation on tolerance and forbidden clones on altogether insufficient and meager scientific data. And so the story is circulating that Rous, when he learned that Burnet was honored by the Nobel Committee, wanted to know whether it was for literature!

I called your office at the Rockefeller University and I was given an appointment with you on Thursday, October 5. You obviously have a heavy schedule, but perhaps you can find it possible to give me an earlier appointment in early September.

I have your letter in which you define your hopes and plans for the future of your presidency and your date of October 16 when you will be formally installed as President of Rockefeller University. Of course I will be there.

You will sooner or later learn that I provided enough funds for a Philip Levine Lectureship dealing with the general subject of cancer. The 1977 lecture was given by my good friend S. Jonathan Singer and the second lecture was given by Michael Potter of NIH on his remarkable findings in experimental production of multiple myeloma in certain strains of inbred mice. The name of Mike Potter was suggested to me by S.J. Singer. The lectureship is sponsored jointly by Cornell University Medical College, The Rockefeller University and Memorial Sloan Kettering Institute.

My best wishes for a successful career in your new venture. Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Levine', enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

Philip Levine, M.D., F.R.C.P.

PL:h1
enc.